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COMMUNICATIONS

MORE NAPOLEONIC SOLDIERS IN WISCONSIN

I note under the caption "Napoleonic Soldiers in Wisconsin" in the last issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* interesting data relative to those who served under the "Little Corporal" and who lie buried in Wisconsin.

My father, H. W. Roblier, had charge of the Columbia County Poorhouse for thirty years prior to 1884, and I have in my possession an old register of the early inmates of that institution. I find therein this record: "Jonas Haywood. Admitted in the Columbia County Poor House, from the Town of Scott, Jan., 12th, 1859. Born in England, is 78 years of age. Died after a lingering illness June, 12th, 1867, 7 o'clock, P. M. Was buried on the 13th, in grave No. 9 on the Poor House lot in the Wyocena cemetery by John McConnell, Theodore Dixon, James Babcock and H. W. Roblier."

My father has many times informed me that Jonas Haywood was a soldier in the English army, and fought at the battle of Waterloo under Wellington. I do not know if the grave of this old warrior can now be located in the Wyocena cemetery, but I presume it can as there must be some record there. If there should be no record other than that above referred to, I assure you that the one in my possession is open for inspection at any time. In going over this old record I find many interesting entries, but this is the only one that seems to have any connection with Napoleon's campaigns. Who knows but this old veteran may have witnessed the charge of the "Old Guard," that last flash of the Emperor's star?

WILLIAM A. ROBlier, *Coloma*

Michael Hirschinger and Michael Nippert marched with Napoleon, and their names might be added to those mentioned by A. O. Barton in his article published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for March, 1921. Both of these soldiers, who were with the great Corsican, are buried in a rural cemetery about four miles southwest of Baraboo and the inscriptions at their graves read as follows:

Michael Hirschinger

Died

March 20, 1853

Aged 67 Years

Michael Nippert

Died

May 23, 1864

Aged 70 years, 2 months

Michael Hirschinger was the father of former Assemblyman Charles Hirschinger, now a resident of Baraboo. The most thrilling experience of the parent was his march to Moscow with Napoleon in the fall of 1812 and the retreat through the wintry snows. The father often told his son of that terrible winter, how many of the soldiers, after fording streams, perished in the cold. Something like a half million men marched to Moscow but the flower of the army was gone when the warm days of spring arrived.

Michael Hirschinger was born at Strassburg and with his wife sailed for America in 1832. When five days from land a storm carried away both sails and rudder; it was thirteen weeks before those on board were rescued. All were given up as lost. The couple landed at New York, walked all the way to Pittsburgh, and came to Sauk County in 1847. Both are buried in Rock Hill cemetery.

Two of Mr. Hirschinger's brothers were in Napoleon's body-guard; both were about six feet and four inches tall. Both were killed and buried at Strassburg. Duels were popular in those days and a soldier had challenged a youth. When one of the Hirschingers interceded on account of the brief years of the young man the aggressor forthwith challenged the would-be mediator. They drew their swords and Hirschinger, being clever with this weapon, severed a button from the coat of his antagonist and then threw the blade to the ground. The warrior was so angry he thrust his weapon through Hirschinger, killing him to the astonishment of the onlookers. The man was afterwards court-martialed and shot.

But little is known concerning Michael Nippert. As to his early life or martial deeds there are no records. He was a near neighbor of Michael Hirschinger, and their experiences were often exchanged in the presence of members of the families, but the conversations have faded with the passing years. His wife, too, sleeps beside him.

H. E. COLE, *Baraboo*